

CONSCRIPTION ISSUE VERY VITAL TO ENGLAND

In Decision Concerning It, Destiny of Nation and Result of War May Depend.

OLEMN WARNING TO PEOPLE

National Service Essential to Thorough Waging and Winning of Conflict—Split in British Cabinet Seems Probable.

BY JOHN L. GARVIN,
Editor Pall Mall Gazette.

LONDON, September 19.—We have reached an issue on which the destiny of England and the result of the war will probably turn. That issue depends on the moral and executive leadership of the nation by the government. There have been alarmist stories of the peep break up of the Cabinet on the question of conscription and of a general election to decide that question. I am aside these rumors because it could be quoted impossible for any ministry to be so reconstructed, and would weaken the whole basis of government, whatever Cabinet might be formed.

A few weeks ago I pointed out that coalition Cabinet could not possibly rest on near absolute unanimity of opinion, and that a continuance of the bitter division and imputation against those who held the reasoned and profound conviction that national service is essential to the thorough waging and winning of the war could only lead to break up of the government.

As I then said, it is the last thing we desire. Nevertheless, the moral and practical problem is very acute. Some solution must be found for it. It was understood last week that the majority of a strong Cabinet committee appointed to examine into the subject, has reported in favor of some form of conscription. Lloyd George is believed to be at one with that majority. The unwieldy Cabinet, as a whole, has not yet reached a decision on question which, as a whole, it is ill-qualified to judge.

NOT POSSIBLE TO LEAVE DECISION TO KITCHENER

To leave the matter to Lord Kitchener alone is not possible in the case where it is unfair to put the whole responsibility on him, and in the second case there are involved, and must be faced, far wider problems than those arising immediately upon recruiting.

We are in the midst of a war where that we require is action, action, action.

Yet the prospect before us appears, as has that of previous Cabinet decisions, and discussion, and discussion, and discussion, and this is in regard to the most vital of all questions raised by the most pressing hour. I agree with the pith of Lloyd George's now famous preface:

"Unless we make our full effort in the next few months, we cannot expect a decisive victory in war, or peace with security."

REAL DANGER IS TARDY AND INSUFFICIENT EFFORT

The real danger is that of a tardy and insufficient effort on Britain's part which would mean a dragging, wasting and yet inconclusive struggle, followed by what I have called a weak and disgraceful peace. I hold that the immeasurable calamity of this latter result ought to be avoided at all hazards.

The question is not one which can be decided by a Cabinet of twenty-two, constituted as we know, and with a majority of numbers to whom public opinion attributes no responsibility at all. If what we have called a miniature mob of Mr. Asquith's recent colleagues is to be the deciding body, and if it decides at the present crisis against full effort under conscription, it will take upon itself a responsibility indeed. It is a responsibility which should be fixed on those who have invoked it, despite warnings, and upon them alone at a subsequent stage of the war. They will be held strictly to account if they still do not go as well as they have, and unreturning opportunity is lost at last. Lloyd George and his colleagues, who have endeavored to lead the government to adopt a course of course, should be asked to associate themselves publicly from any responsibility for the rejection of their unsuits at such an hour as this. Then, the present government might continue unchanged for a time, but there would be a smaller and stronger government in reserve, and I am convinced there would be need for it at no distant date.

SUE IS ONE OF FACT AND NOT OF PRINCIPLE

Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch. LONDON, September 19.—Replying to a constituent Lloyd George has given the following letter:

"You say the government ought to give the nation the lead in answering a question as to whether the moral obligation of every able-bodied man to defend his country should be considered during the war into a legal obligation. The government is fully alive to the necessity of giving a definite lead, and undue delay might be disastrous. On the other hand, any precipitation would be equally disastrous. The issue is one of fact and not of principle. If figures demonstrate that we can win with the voluntary system it would be folly to precipitate a controversy in the middle of a world-war by attempt to substitute a totally different method. On the other hand, if figures demonstrate that the voluntary system has exhausted its utility, nothing but legal compulsion can give Britain the armaments necessary to defend its honor, and save it from a triumph of military despotism. I have not yet heard of a single man who would resist compulsion under those circumstances. The man who says they would resist the petition, even if proven necessary to the country and the freedom of the world, has not yet appeared in the arena. It is all a question of ascertainable

fact. Why all this premature anger? The determining facts have not yet been published. When they are sifted and published, the advocates of one view or the other will find all their fervor and ferocity wasted in attacking positions, which they then will disavow, they ought to defend. The issue is the gravest any country has ever called upon to decide. Let it be settled in a spirit worthy of that gravity. I withdraw nothing I have said as to the seriousness of the position."

AMUSEMENTS

About the Theaters.

For to-day only, the Academy of Music is dark, but throughout the rest of the week there'll be lights of various sorts every night and most every afternoon. Good old Al G. Field and his "old-time" minstrel show comes tomorrow, for an engagement of three performances. Tuesday night, Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday night. Conspicuous among Al G's entertainers are Bert Stone and Eddie O'Neill, the latter being the Richmond boy who has forged ahead so fast in fast blackface company. There is little else saying anything about Field's minstrel show, however; it is practically certain to pack the house three times.

For Thursday and Friday, with Friday matinee, comes "The Only Girl," which is pretty sure to be one of the season's big hits. The book is by Henry Blossom, author of "Milk and Honey" and a dozen other bright books, not to speak of "Checkers" and "The Red Rose" in other days. "Documents in Evidence" was the title of the original cast, large singing and dancing chorus of more than fifty-four people, will be seen for the first time in this delightful performance of the musical comedy was given here in September, 1911; further, the original cast, of which the agent speaks, included Vassalli, Suratt, Wallace, McCutcheon, John Daly, Murphy, Ernest Lambert, John E. Hazzard, Flavia Arzoo, Henry Bergman and nearly as many more well-known performers. And yet the agent of the producer has the front to say that the "original cast" will appear here. Still, the producers wonder why their statements, or those of their agents, are not accepted at their face value. D. G.

"The Red Rose" is booked for two performances on Saturday. The press follows "The Red Rose" with the original cast, large singing and dancing chorus of more than fifty-four people, will be seen for the first time in this delightful performance of the musical comedy was given here in September, 1911; further, the original cast, of which the agent speaks, included Vassalli, Suratt, Wallace, McCutcheon, John Daly, Murphy, Ernest Lambert, John E. Hazzard, Flavia Arzoo, Henry Bergman and nearly as many more well-known performers. And yet the agent of the producer has the front to say that the "original cast" will appear here. Still, the producers wonder why their statements, or those of their agents, are not accepted at their face value. D. G.

If ever a vaudeville bill had a pleasing look on paper—and in pictures—it is that booked for the first half of the week at the Lyric. "The Metropolitan Dancers" alone ought to draw big audiences, they certainly do look pretty in their pictures. The management also expects Sager, Mulvey and Dawn Elton to make headway in public favor with their rube skits. Others on the program are Marie Fitzgibbons, Les Yarns, ground and lefty acrobats, and Herkimer, cartoonist.

For the first half of the week the Little Theater's principal attraction will be John Barrymore in a pictorialization of George C. Shedd's story, "The Incredible Duke." With all the advantages of a name famous in the theater, with youth in his favor and decided original talent to his credit, John Barrymore has proved as successful as a screen performer as he was in the days when he was a stage actor. It is said that "The Incredible Duke" offers an abundant opportunity for the display of Mr. Barrymore's versatility, as it contains the elements of comedy, romance and strength.

To-day and to-morrow the Colonial's feature will be the photoplay of "The Great Ruby," the thrilling melodrama which excited so much interest some years ago. A remarkably good cast has been provided, including some of the best-known names of stage and screen.

The superb Olga Petrova will be seen at the Isis to-day and to-morrow in her latest photoplay, "The Tigris." In the opinion of many of us, Petrova is the most beautiful woman now before the picture public; and she is undoubtedly a tremendous actor.

FAVOR PREPAREDNESS

Members of Michigan's Congressional Delegation Overwhelmingly for Adequate Defense.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) DETROIT, September 19.—Michigan's congressional delegation is overwhelmingly in favor of national preparedness against war, and is almost equally united in upholding the administration's refusal to stop the exportation of munitions. This was revealed by a poll of the delegation to-day.

Asked how they would regard an attempt by a foreign nation to influence American politics, or the American Congress, the majority emphatically condemned the suggestion.

DEATHS IN VIRGINIA

Mrs. Waleka Wendenburg, mother of Louis O. Wendenburg, of this city, died late last night at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Willis A. Webber, in Pittsfield, Mass. She was the widow of Robert Wendenburg, and is survived by the following children: Mrs. W. A. Webber, of Pittsfield, Mass.; Mrs. A. Watson, of Washington, D. C.; Louis O. Wendenburg, of Richmond, and Herman Wendenburg, of California.

The funeral services will be held at the grave, in Hollywood Cemetery, following the arrival of the 1:10 P. M. train from Washington on Wednesday afternoon.

William A. Varty, RALEIGH, N. C. September 19.—William A. Varty, veteran North Carolina editor, died to-day at Neva Gerson, Isle of Pines, according to a message received at Hendersonville, N. C., his former home.

Mr. Varty was the first American correspondent with the American fleet to set foot on Cuba in the Spanish-American War. On one occasion he ran the blockade of Havana harbor.

James E. Haskins. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] CLARKSVILLE, VA., September 19.—James E. Haskins, one of the oldest residents of this town, died this morning. He was sixty-eight years old, and had been a hardware merchant of the town for many years. He leaves surviving him an aged wife, a brother, Robert Haskins, of Richmond, and four sisters, Mrs. B. J. Sheppard and Mrs. John Sheppard, both of Winston-Salem, N. C.; Mrs. J. H. Moorehead, of Atlanta, Ga., and Mrs. J. P. Thornton, of Pamplin City.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OPENS AT NOON TO-MORROW

Large Enrollment Is Expected Despite Higher Entrance Requirements.

IS "CLASS A, GROUP 1" SCHOOL.

Only Eleven Medical Institutions in America Had Larger Number of Students in Attendance During Last Session.

The seventy-seventh session of the Medical College of Virginia will be inaugurated to-morrow at 12 o'clock, when Dean Stuart McGuire will deliver an address to the 500 or more students who will attend the institution. At the conclusion of the address the students will attend classes for the work, preparatory to taking up their courses of study. With the opening of the present session the Medical College becomes one of the foremost institutions of its kind in this country. In view of the faculty's decision to require at least two years of college training before students are admitted to the medical department, the school has gained ranking as a Class A, Group 1 school. This rank entitles it to vie with the Medical College of the University of Alabama for supreme standing in the South. It is expected that the standard of the college will be raised still further within the next few years.

EXPECT LARGE ATTENDANCE DESPITE HIGHER REQUIREMENTS

With this system in vogue in the medical department and the entrance requirements to the departments of pharmacy and dentistry being raised gradually also, it was feared that the attendance at the Medical College of Virginia for the present year might show a decrease. However, Secretary McCauley last night estimated that the capacity of the college would be taxed again this year. In several instances, students desiring to matriculate in the medical department and being prepared by the higher standards, have matriculated in one of the other courses.

According to the estimates of the secretary, there will be a medical freshman class of at least twenty-five, while freshmen classes of fifty each are expected in the pharmacy and dental departments.

Mr. McCauley pointed out the records of various colleges as compared with that of the Medical College of Virginia during the past few years. Due to the merging of various colleges, the total number of medical colleges in this country has been decreased from 165, in 1905, to 55, in 1915. Of that number there are but eleven which have a larger total enrollment than the Medical College of Virginia, and forty-eight of the ninety-five, in 1914, matriculated less than twenty-five freshmen. This year the freshmen class of the local medical school totaled forty-two.

GRADUATES STAND WELL BEFORE STATE BOARD

The records of graduates from the local institution before the State Board were pointed to with pride by Mr. McCauley also. The secretary said that there had been less than 10 per cent of the total number of graduates from the Medical College of Virginia to fail before the State Board during the last ten years, a record which is considered remarkable as compared with much higher percentages of failures of students from other institutions.

A new plan was inaugurated at the school this season in the holding of the fall examinations. Heretofore it has been the practice to hold these examinations after the opening of the session, but this year the examinations were held early last week, and when the session opens tomorrow, all of these papers will have been examined, and the students will be ready to take up their work with their new classes at once, thus preventing the loss of a week or ten days' time.

Considerable improvement has been made in various departments during the summer. The most important improvements have been made in the dental school, where the newest and most modern equipment has been installed. New chairs, with new fixtures, have been installed throughout, making this department one of the finest in the country.

In addition to these changes there are also changes in the faculty. Dr. Rogers and Dr. R. R. Byrnes, both of Vanderbilt, have been added to the faculty, and will take up their duties at once.

TO TAKE NO ACTION ON DUMBA LETTER

(Continued From First Page.) the allies in this country enjoy uncensored use of the cables, a privilege denied him.

Dr. Dumba takes exception to Secretary Lansing's charge that he "conferred to having conspired to bring about strikes in American munition works," and declared he has communicated with his government, asking for a leave of absence that he may explain his position.

The recall of Dr. Dumba was asked after a copy of a letter the ambassador had sent to his government through James J. P. Archibald, an American citizen, traveling under an American passport, had been sent to the State Department. The ambassador admitted having instructed Archibald with the letter to Vienna, bearing his plans for withdrawing Austro-Hungarian labor and handicapping American plants making war munitions for the allies.

COMPLAINS OF RESTRICTIONS ON HIS COMMUNICATIONS

Complaining of the restrictions placed upon him through the American wireless censorship, the ambassador in his letter says:

"As the Austro-Hungarian ambassador is, and has been for many months past, in the phenomenal position of being unable to communicate privately with his government, although our enemies are and have been permitted freely to use the cables for their secret code dispatches without censorship, I have, by the grace of your department, now been permitted to communicate with my government through the German embassy, but to the extent only of asking for leave of absence to the end that I may in person explain my position, and, meantime, to suspend judgment upon the charges contained

in Your Excellency's message, and am now awaiting a reply.

"I have not even been allowed to advise my government that I do not admit having conspired to do any act in violation of the laws of the country to which I am accredited, and whose hospitality I have enjoyed and have in no way abused. The message that I sought to have transmitted to that effect was rejected by your censor, as hereafter explained. In some unaccountable way, this confidential message was communicated to the press and has been published.

ACTION CONTRARY TO DIPLOMATIC USAGE

"I, of course, do not and cannot question the power of the government of the United States to dismiss me by handing me my passports and assuring me safe conduct home without assenting any reason thereof, or on such grounds as it may deem sufficient without regard to my opinion as to its justice. When, however, your government does fit to resort to the extraordinary and, to me, humiliating course of preferring charges against me to my government without advising me of the intended action, or even intimating that such action is contemplated, and to request my recall upon those charges as confessed, whilst at the same time refusing me permission even to communicate privately with my government, I respectfully protest against such action as unjust to me and contrary to diplomatic usage.

"I ask you in all fairness, was ever an ambassador in a neutral country confronted with such a situation, created and enforced by the government to which he is accredited, whilst ambassadors representing enemies of his country have unlimited means of secret communications? It has been made literally impossible for me to communicate privately with my government. Under such condition, I have no apologies to offer for having trusted my letter to Mr. Archibald. If the conveying of letters to Europe by Americans traveling abroad during this war is an offense, it is one of which Americans are apparently ignorant, as the courtesy has frequently been volunteered by my friends, and is habitually practiced. It did not for a moment occur to me that it was improper.

THOUGHT IT NECESSARY TO INFORM COUNTRYMEN

Dr. Dumba then explains that he thought it necessary to acquaint these

people with the fact that they were violating the laws of their country, and also to provide a means of livelihood for them through employment agencies.

OUTLINES CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH HE ACTED

Dr. Dumba then outlines the circumstances under which he says he acted and his reasons in forwarding to Vienna the letter which was the occasion for the request for his recall. He recounts the proclamation issued by Germany calling attention of its citizens resident in the United States and other foreign countries to the severe penalties they would incur by participating in the manufacture of munitions for Germany's enemies. As a result, the ambassador stated, many German citizens surrendered their positions in American munitions factories.

"They could probably," he added, "see no distinction in principle between accomplishing the slaughter of their countrymen in this way and taking up arms against them, except that the former method would be more effective than the latter."

Dr. Dumba states that he was advised by his government of the issuance of a similar proclamation. This, he said, called attention to a section of his government's military penal code, which made it a crime, punishable by imprisonment from ten to twenty years, and under certain circumstances by death, for any of "our citizens" to engage in the manufacture of munitions to be used against Austria-Hungary.

Dr. Dumba says he made strong representations to his country for a suspension of the operation of this law against citizens of Austria-Hungary resident in this country, because, he said, unlike the German workmen, "our citizens in those factories were largely poorly paid, unskilled laborers, most of whom were unable to read or write any language other than their own, who were working under conditions of unspeakable hardship, and who would find it difficult, if not impossible, to secure other employment, and who had not the means of subsistence for themselves or families."

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"Accordingly instructed to use every proper means of dissuading our citizens from committing this crime of high treason against the country to which they owed their allegiance in its hour of greatest need.

"At the time of the publication of your message, I had as yet been able to take no step toward the carrying out of these instructions, and had no intention of doing so in any way that would violate the laws or offend against the customs of the country whose hospitality I have enjoyed, and whose friendship my country deeply appreciates and is anxious to retain.

"My absolute right and duty to call my countrymen in the United States out of their respective employments to the ranks as soon as Austria-Hungary was in a state of war, has not been, and cannot be, questioned. The French and Italian ambassadors did, and are doing, this without question from official quarters."

Dr. Dumba says he has information that, in the event of a war between this country and a foreign power, American citizens in foreign lands who aided the enemy in its supply of ammunition would be equally guilty as if they took up arms against their government.

"If," Dr. Dumba continues, "by argument or persuasion through the limited channels open to us under the present exceptional conditions, or by otherwise providing for their wants, we are able to prevail upon our citizens to discontinue their attacks upon their fatherland, it is not only our right but our bounden duty to do so."

The ambassador declares that the fact that only \$15,000 was asked from his government to be used in bringing its proclamation to the attention of its citizens in munitions factories, shows how limited was the "nation-wide conspiracy against the industrial peace of the United States."

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